This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### LISTING OF CLAIMS:

# 1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I:

wherein

n is 1 or 2:

m is 1-or 2;

 $R^1$  is  $\underline{\text{cthyl or vinyl}}$ ; H,  $(C_{16})$  alkyl,  $(C_{26})$  alkenyl, or  $(C_{26})$  alkynyl, wherein each of said  $(C_{16})$  alkyl,  $(C_{26})$  alkenyl, or  $(C_{26})$  alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;

 $R^2$  — is selected from -CH<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>20</sup>, -NH-R<sup>20</sup>, -O-R<sup>20</sup>, -S-R<sup>20</sup>, -SO-R<sup>20</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>20</sup>, -CH<sub>2</sub>O-R<sup>20</sup>, and -O-X-R<sup>20</sup>, wherein

X is (C2-3)alkenyl, (C2-3)alkynyl, or (C1-3)alkyl; and

 ${\bf R}^{20}$  is  $(C_6$  or  $C_{10}$ )aryl or  ${\bf Het}$ , wherein said  $(C_6$  or  $C_{10}$ )aryl or  ${\bf Het}$  is optionally substituted with  ${\bf R}^{200}$ ; wherein

R<sup>200</sup> is one to four substituents each independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, Het, oxo, thioxo, -OR<sup>201</sup>, -SR<sup>201</sup>, -SOR<sup>201</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>201</sup>, -N(R<sup>202</sup>)R<sup>201</sup>, and -CON(R<sup>202</sup>)R<sup>201</sup>; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl and Het is optionally further substituted with R<sup>2000</sup>.

R<sup>201</sup> in each case is independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, and

aryl,  $CO (C_{L_0})$ alkyl and  $CO O (C_{L_0})$ alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with  $R^{2000}$ :

 $R^{202}$  in each case is independently selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

- $R^{2000}$  in each case is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, Het,  $-OR^{2001}$ ,  $-SR^{2004}$ ,  $-SO_2R^{2004}$ , cyano,  $-N(R^{2002})(R^{2001})$ , and  $R^{2003}$ , wherein said aryl and Het are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from  $(C_{1:6})$ alkyl and  $-O-(C_{1:6})$ alkyl;
- $\mathbf{R}^{2001}$  in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl- $(C_{1:6})$ alkyl-, -C(O)- $\mathbf{R}^{2003}$ , -C(O)O- $\mathbf{R}^{2003}$ , - $CON(\mathbf{R}^{2002})(\mathbf{R}^{2004})$  and - $\mathbf{R}^{2004}$ ;
- $R^{2002}$  in each case is independently selected from H and  $(C_{1\text{-}6})$ alkyl;
- $R^{2003}$  in each case is independently selected from  $(C_{1:8})$ alkyl, and  $(C_{2:7})$ cycloalkyl; and  $(C_{2:7})$ cycloalkyl  $(C_{1:4})$ alkyl, wherein said  $(C_{2:7})$ cycloalkyl and  $(C_{2:7})$ cycloalkyl  $(C_{1:4})$ alkyl are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from  $(C_{1:2})$ alkyl; and

R<sup>2004</sup> in each case is independently selected from H and R<sup>2003</sup>:

- $$\begin{split} R^3 & \text{ is } (C_{1.8})\text{alkyl}, \ \underline{\text{or }} (C_{3.7})\text{cycloalkyl} \ \underline{\text{or }} (C_{3.2})\text{eyeloalkyl} \cdot (C_{4.2})\text{alkyl}, \ \text{each optionally} \\ & \text{ substituted with one } \underline{\text{or }} \text{ more substituents } \underline{\text{substituent}} \ \underline{\text{each independently}} \ \underline{\text{selected}} \\ & \text{ from } (C_{4.6})\text{alkyl}, (C_{2.6})\text{alkenyl}, \ \text{halogen, eyano, }} \cdot OR^{30}, -SR^{30}, -C(=O)OR^{30}, \\ & -C(=O)NH_2, -C(=O)NH(C_{1.6})\text{alkyl}, -C(=O)N((C_{1.6})\text{alkyl})_2, -NH(C_{1.6})\text{alkyl}, \\ & -N((C_{1.6})\text{alkyl})_2, \ \underline{\text{aryl}}, \ \underline{\text{and }} \ \underline{\text{aryl}}(C_{1.6})\text{alkyl}, \ \underline{\text{aryl}}, \ \underline{\text{or }} \\ & \text{aryl}(C_{1.6})\text{alkyl}, \ \underline{\text{aryl}}, \ \underline{\text{or }} \\ & \text{aryl}(C_{1.6})\text{alkyl}, \ \underline{\text{or }} \\ \end{aligned}$$
- $R^5$  is selected from  $B_7B_7C(=0)_7$ ,  $B_7D_7C(=0)_7$ ,  $B_7N(R^{51})_7C(=0)_7$ ;  $B_7N(R^{51})_7C(=5)_7$ ; wherein  $B_7S_7C(=5)_7$ ; wherein  $B_7S$ 
  - (i) (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
  - (ii) (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl-, each optionally

- substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from  $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl, -OH, -O $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl, -NH $_2$ , -NH $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl, -N( $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl) $_2$ , -C(=O)NH $_2$ , -C(=O)NH $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl and -C(=O)N( $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl) $_2$ ;
- (iii) aryl or aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, OH, NH<sub>2</sub>; NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-and C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
- (iv) Het or Het (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl; , each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, OH, NH<sub>2</sub>; -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>; -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>; and
- (v) (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogens; and wherein

R<sup>51</sup> is selected from H and (C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl;

provided that B is not  $(C_{1-10})$  alkyl unsubstituted when  $\mathbb{R}^5$  is B-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H  $\frac{\text{or }(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}}{\text{or }(C_{1-6})}$ ;

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-0</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-0</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, Het, and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-; wherein said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CO NH<sub>2</sub>, CO NH(C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl, -CO N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>3</sub>, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl; or

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen,  $(C_{1:6})$ alkyl, hydroxy, cyano,  $O-(C_{1:6})$ alkyl, -NH $_2$ -NH $(C_{1:4})$ alkyl, -N( $(C_{1:4})$ alkyl) $_2$ -CO-NH $_2$ -CO-NH $(C_{1:4})$ alkyl, -CO-N( $(C_{1:4})$ alkyl) $_2$ -COOH, and -COO( $(C_{1:6})$ alkyl;

with the proviso that when:

# R5 is B O C(=O) or B N(R51) C(=O), wherein

- R<sup>51</sup> is H; and
- B is selected from (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, and (C<sub>2-7</sub>)cycloalkyl (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl,
  - a) wherein said alkyl, eyeloalkyl, and eyeloalkyl alkyl are optionally mono-, dior tri substituted with (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and
  - wherein said alkyl, eyeloalkyl, and eyeloalkyl alkyl are optionally monoor di-substituted with substituents-selected from hydroxy and O-(C<sub>L-</sub>)alkyl; and
    - wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono, di-or-tri substituted with halogen; and
  - d) wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4, 5, 6 or 7 membered, one (for the 4, 5, 6, or 7 membered) or two (for the 5, 6 or 7 membered). CH<sub>2</sub>-groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by 0 to provide a heterocycle, such that the 0 atom is linked to the 0 C(=0) or N(R<sup>51</sup>) C(=0) group via at least two earbon atoms; and R<sup>2</sup>:c 0 R<sup>20</sup>.

then

R<sup>20</sup> cannot be

wherein

 $\mathbb{R}^{200a}$  is H, halogen,  $(C_{14})$ alkyl, -OH, -O  $(C_{14})$ alkyl,  $-NH_2$ ,  $-NH(C_{14})$ alkyl or  $-N((C_{14})$ alkyl) $\frac{1}{2}$ :

R<sup>2000</sup>, R<sup>200c</sup>-are each independently halogen, cyano, (C<sub>1-i</sub>)alkyl, O (C<sub>1-i</sub>)alkyl, SO (C<sub>1-i</sub>)alkyl, or SO<sub>2</sub> (C<sub>1-i</sub>)alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either R<sup>2000</sup>- or R<sup>200c</sup> (but not both at the same time) may also be H; or

R<sup>200a</sup>-and-R<sup>200b</sup>-or

R<sup>200a</sup> and R<sup>200a</sup> may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C-atoms to which they are linked, a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring wherein one or two -CH<sub>2</sub> groups not being directly linked to each other may be replaced each independently by O- or NR\* wherein -R\* is H or (C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl, and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or disubstituted with (C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl; and

 $\mathbb{R}^{20000}$  is  $\mathbb{R}^{3003}$ ,  $\mathbb{N}(\mathbb{R}^{3003})$ COR $^{2003}$ ,  $\mathbb{N}(\mathbb{R}^{2003})$ COOR $^{2003}$ ,  $\mathbb{N}(\mathbb{R}^{2004})$ , or  $\mathbb{R}^{2003}$ CON( $\mathbb{R}^{2003}$ )CON( $\mathbb{R}^{2003}$ ), wherein

R<sup>2002</sup> is H or methyl:

 $R^{2003}$  is  $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl,  $(C_{2.7})$ eyeloalkyl or  $(C_{2.7})$ eyeloalkyl  $(C_{1.4})$ alkyl are optionally mono , di , or tri-substituted with  $(C_{1.7})$ alkyl; and

R<sup>2004</sup> is H or R<sup>2003</sup>;

wherein Het is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

- 2. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein
  - n is 1 <del>or 2</del>:
  - m is 1-or 2:
  - $R^1$  is  $\underline{\text{ethyl or vinyl}}$ ; H,  $(C_{\downarrow e})$ alkyl,  $(C_{\downarrow e})$ alkenyl, or  $(C_{\downarrow e})$ alkynyl, wherein each of  $\underline{\text{said}}$   $(C_{\downarrow e})$ alkyl,  $(C_{\downarrow e})$ alkenyl, or  $(C_{\downarrow e})$ alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;
  - $R^2$  is selected from -CH<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>20</sup>, -NH-R<sup>20</sup>, -O-R<sup>20</sup>, -S-R<sup>30</sup>, -SO-R<sup>20</sup>, -SO<sub>3</sub>-R<sup>20</sup>, -CH<sub>3</sub>O-R<sup>20</sup>, and -O-X-R<sup>20</sup>, wherein
    - X is  $(C_{2-3})$ alkenyl,  $(C_{2-3})$ alkynyl, or  $(C_{1-3})$ alkyl; and
    - ${\bf R}^{20}$  is  $(C_6$  or  $C_{10}$ )aryl or  ${\bf Het}$ , wherein said  $(C_6$  or  $C_{10}$ )aryl or  ${\bf Het}$  is optionally substituted with  ${\bf R}^{200}$ ; wherein
    - R<sup>200</sup> is one to four substituents each independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, Het, oxo, thioxo, -OR<sup>201</sup>, -SR<sup>201</sup>, -SOR<sup>201</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>201</sup>, -N(R<sup>202</sup>)R<sup>201</sup>, and -CON(R<sup>202</sup>)R<sup>201</sup>; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl and Het is optionally further substituted with R<sup>2000</sup>;
    - R<sup>201</sup> in each case is independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, and aryl, CO (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and CO O (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with R<sup>2000</sup>;
    - $R^{202}$  in each case is independently selected from H and  $(C_{1\text{-}6})$ alkyl;
    - $R^{2000}$  in each case is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, Het,  $-OR^{2001}$ ,  $-SR^{2000}$ ,  $-SOR^{2000}$ ,  $-SO_2R^{2000}$ , cyano,  $-N(R^{2002})(R^{2001})$ , and  $R^{2003}$ , wherein said aryl and Het are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from  $(C_{1:6})$ alkyl and  $-O-(C_{1:6})$ alkyl;
    - R<sup>2001</sup> in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, -C(O)-

# R<sup>2003</sup>, C(O)O R<sup>2003</sup>, CON(R<sup>2002</sup>)(R<sup>2004</sup>) and R<sup>2004</sup>;

R<sup>2002</sup> in each case is independently selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

- $R^{2003}$  in each case is independently selected from  $(C_{1.8})$ alkyl;  $\frac{1}{3}$  and  $(C_{3.7})$ cycloalkyl.  $(C_{1.7})$ alkyl., wherein said  $(C_{3.7})$ cycloalkyl and  $(C_{3.7})$ cycloalkyl.  $(C_{1.7})$ alkyl. are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from  $(C_{1.3})$ alkyl; and  $R^{2004}$  in each case is independently selected from H and  $R^{2003}$ .
- $$\begin{split} R^3 & \text{ is } (C_{1.8})\text{alkyl, } (C_{3.7})\text{cycloalkyl or } + (C_{2.7})\text{cycloalkyl } + (C_{1.7})\text{alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substitutents each independently selected from \\ & (C_{1.6})\text{alkyl, } + (C_{2.6})\text{alkenyl, halogen, eyano, } OR^{30}, C(=O)OR^{30}, C(=O)NH_{21}, C(=O)NH(C_{1.6})\text{alkyl, } + (C(=O)NH(C_{1.6})\text{alkyl, } + NH_{21} NH(C_{1.6})\text{alkyl, } + NH(C_{1.6})\text{alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C_{1.6})\text{alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C_{1.6})}} \end{split}$$
- R<sup>5</sup> is selected from B, B-C(=0)-, B-O-C(=0)-, B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=0)+, B-N(R<sup>61</sup>)-C(=8)-,
  B-SO<sub>2</sub>- and B-N(R<sup>61</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>-; wherein B is selected from:
  - (i) (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>3</sub>;
  - (ii) (C<sub>3.7</sub>)cycloalkyl, or (C<sub>3.7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1.4</sub>)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -O(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
  - (iii) aryl or aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, OH, NH<sub>2</sub>; -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
  - (iv) Het or Het (C1-6)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more

substituents each selected independently from  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl, OH,  $NH_{27}$   $-NH(C_{1-6})$ alkyl,  $-N((C_{1-6})$ alkyl),  $-C(=O)NH_2$ ,  $-C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})$ alkyl and  $-C(=O)N((C_{1-6})$ alkyl); and

 (v) — (C<sub>2.6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2.6</sub>)alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogens; and wherein

R51 is selected from H and (C16)alkyl;

provided that B is not (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl unsubstituted when R<sup>5</sup> is B-O-C(=O)-;

Y is H or  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl;

R4 and R6 are each independently selected from H, (C1.6)alkyl, -O-(C1.6)alkyl,

(C<sub>3.7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3.7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl-; wherein said (C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, -(O-(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3.7</sub>)cycloalkyl.

 $(C_{3.7}) eycloalkyl-(C_{1.6})alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C_{1.6})alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C_{1.6})alkyl, hydroxy, eyano, O-(C_{1.6})alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C_{1.4})alkyl, -N((C_{1.4})alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, CO NH<sub>2</sub>, CO NH(C<sub>1.4</sub>)alkyl, CO N((C_{1.4})alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, and -COOH,$ 

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl,

with the proviso that when:

-CO-N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

and COO(CLA)alkyl; or

R<sup>51</sup> is H; and

B is selected from (C<sub>1.10</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2.7</sub>)cycloalkyl, and (C<sub>2.7</sub>)cycloalkyl (C<sub>1.4</sub>)alkyl,

- a) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl alkyl are optionally mono, di- or tri-substituted with (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and
- wherein said alkyl, eyeloalkyl, and eyeloalkyl alkyl are optionally monoor di-substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and O (C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl; and
- wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono, di or tri substituted with halogen; and
- d) wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4,5,6 or 7 membered, one (for the 4,5,6 or 7 membered) or two (for the 5,6 or 7 membered) CH<sub>2</sub> groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by O to provide a heterocycle, such that the O atom is linked to the O C(=O) or -N(R<sup>51</sup>) C(=O) group via at least two carbon atoms; and

R2 is O-R20:

then

### R<sup>20</sup> cannot be

wherein

$$\begin{split} & R^{200a} : s : H, halogen, (C_{\downarrow \rightarrow}) alkyl, \quad OH, \quad O : (C_{\downarrow \rightarrow}) alkyl, \quad NH_2, \quad NH(C_{\downarrow \rightarrow}) alkyl : or \\ & -N((C_{\downarrow \rightarrow}) alkyl)_2; \end{split}$$

R<sup>2006</sup>, R<sup>2006</sup> are each independently halogen, cyano, (C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl, O (C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl, SO (C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl, or SO<sub>2</sub> (C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either R<sup>2006</sup> or R<sup>2006</sup> (but not both at the same time) may also be 11- or

 $\mathbf{R}^{200a}$ -and  $\mathbf{R}^{200b}$ -or

 $\mathbf{R}^{200a}$  and  $\mathbf{R}^{200e}$  may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C atoms

to which they are linked, a 5 or 6 membered carbocyclic ring wherein one or two  $-CH_2$  groups not being directly linked to each other may be replaced each independently by -O or  $NR^n$  wherein  $R^n$  is H or  $(C_{\downarrow\downarrow})$  alkyl, and wherein said carbo or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono or disubstituted with  $(C_{\downarrow\downarrow})$  alkyl; and

$$\begin{split} R^{2009a} & \text{ is } R^{2003}, -N(R^{2002})COR^{2003}, -N(R^{2002})COOR^{2003}, -N(R^{2002})(R^{2004}), \text{ or } \\ & -N(R^{2002})CON(R^{2002})(R^{2004}), \text{ wherein} \end{split}$$

R<sup>2002</sup> is H or methyl:

 $R^{2003}$  is  $(C_{L_2})$ alkyl,  $(C_{3,2})$ eyeloalkyl or  $(C_{2,2})$ eyeloalkyl  $(C_{L_1})$ alkyl are optionally mono , di , or tri-substituted with  $(C_{1,2})$ alkyl and  $(C_{1,2})$ alkyl and

wherein Het is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic:

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

3. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>5</sup> is selected from B-C(=O)-, B-O-C(=O)-, and B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O)-; wherein B and R<sup>51</sup> are defined as in claim 1, provided that B is not (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl unsubstituted when R<sup>5</sup> is B-O-C(=O)-.

- 4. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 3 wherein R<sup>SI</sup> is H and B is selected from:
  - (i) (C<sub>L7</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with one or two or three substituents each independently selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, hydroxy, methoxy and ethoxy; or optionally substituted with -COOCH<sub>3</sub>;
  - (ii) (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-methyl-, each optionally substituted with one
    or two substituents each independently selected from methyl, ethyl, hydroxy,
    methoxy and ethoxy;
  - (iii) benzyl; and
  - (iv) Het, wherein Het comprises a 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7-membered heterocyle having one to four heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N, and S, which may be saturated or unsaturated or aromatic;

provided that B is not  $(C_{1.7})$  alkyl unsubstituted when  $R^5$  is B-O-C(=O)-.

- 5. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is H.
- (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R³ is <u>tert-butyl</u> (C<sub>1-k</sub>)alkyl or (C<sub>2-r</sub>)cycloalkyl, the (C<sub>1-k</sub>)alkyl being optionally substituted with hydroxy, (C<sub>1-k</sub>)alkoxy or C(=0)OR³0, wherein R³0 is (C<sub>1-k</sub>)alkyl or aryl(C<sub>1-k</sub>)alkyl.
- (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -O-R<sup>20</sup>, -S-R<sup>20</sup>, and -O-X-R<sup>20</sup>, wherein R<sup>20</sup> and X are defined as in claim 1.
- (Original) The compound according to claim 7 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is -O-X-R<sup>20</sup>, wherein X is (C<sub>3</sub>)alkynyl and R<sup>20</sup> is (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl.

9. (Original) The compound according to claim 7 wherein  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is -O- $\mathbb{R}^{20}$ , wherein  $\mathbb{R}^{20}$  is

wherein

 $R^{200d}$  is  $-OR^{201}$ , wherein  $R^{201}$  is  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl;

 $\mathbf{R}^{200e}$  is H or  $-\mathbf{OR}^{201}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{201}$  is  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl; and

 $\mathbf{R}^{200f}$  is  $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl, halogen,  $-S\mathbf{R}^{201}$ ,  $-SO_2\mathbf{R}^{201}$ , or  $-O\mathbf{R}^{201}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{201}$  is  $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl optionally further substituted with  $(C_{3.7})$ eyeloalkyl or phenyl.

- 10. (Original) The compound according to claim 9 wherein  $R^{200d}$  is  $-OR^{201}$  wherein  $R^{201}$  is ethyl.
- 11. (Original) The compound according to claim 7 wherein  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is -O- $\mathbb{R}^{20}$ , wherein  $\mathbb{R}^{20}$  is

wherein

one of A, D, and E represents a S atom and the other two of A, D, and E represent C atoms:

---- represents a single bond between a C atom and an S atom, and represents a single bond or a double bond between two C atoms; provided that each C atom is bonded by one double bond;

 $\mathbf{R}^{200g}$  is H or  $-\mathbf{OR}^{201}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{201}$  is  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl or  $(C_{2-6})$ alkenyl; and

 $\mathbf{R}^{200h}$  is one or two substituents each independently selected from H, cyano,  $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl and  $-SO_{2^*}(C_{1.6})$ alkyl; wherein each  $\mathbf{R}^{200h}$  is bonded to a C atom which would otherwise bear a hydrogen atom.

- 12. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein n is 1.
- The compound according to claim 1 wherein R1 is 13. (Currently Amended) (C2.6)alkenyl or (C2.6)alkyl vinyl.

#### 14. (Canceled)

- 15. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein:
  - $\mathbf{R}^4$  and  $\mathbf{R}^6$  are each independently selected from H,  $(C_{1\cdot6})$ alkyl, -O- $(C_{1\cdot6})$ alkyl, (C3.7)cycloalkyl, (C3.7)cycloalkyl-(C1.6)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C1.6)alkyl-; wherein said (C1.6)alkyl, -O-(C1.6)alkyl, (C3.7)cycloalkyl, (C3.7)cycloalkyl-(C1.6)alkyl-, aryl and arvl-(C1.6)alkvl- are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C1-6)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C1-6)alkyl, and -COOH, and -COO(C1-6)alkyl; or
  - R4 and R6 are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, said heterocycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C1.6)alkyl, -NH2, -NH(C1.4)alkyl, -N((C1.4)alkyl)2, -COOH, and -COO(C1.6)alkyl.
- 16. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein:
  - is 1 or 2: n
  - is 1 or 2:
  - $R^1$ is ethyl or vinyl H. (C. Allkyl. (C. Allkenyl, or (C. Allkynyl, wherein said (C1-6)alkyl, (C2-6)alkenyl, or (C2-6)alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;

 $R^2$  — is selected from -CH<sub>2</sub>  $R^{30}$  , NH  $R^{20}$  , -O-R $^{20}$  , -S  $R^{30}$  , -SO-R $^{20}$  , SO<sub>2</sub>  $R^{20}$  , CH<sub>2</sub>O-  $R^{20}$  , and -O-X-R $^{20}$  , wherein

X is (C2-3)alkenyl, (C2-3)alkynyl, or (C1-3)alkyl; and

 $R^{20}$  is  $(C_6$  or  $C_{10})$ aryl or Het, wherein said  $(C_6$  or  $C_{10})$ aryl or Het is optionally mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted with  $R^{200}$ , wherein each  $R^{200}$  is independently selected from H, halogen, cyano,  $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl,  $(C_{3.7})$ cycloalkyl, aryl- $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl-, aryl, Het, oxo, thioxo, -OR^{201}, -SR^{201}, -SOR^{201}, -SO\_2R^{201}, -N(R^{202})R^{201}, \text{ and } -CON(R^{202})R^{201}; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl and Het is optionally further substituted with  $R^{2000}$ .

 $R^{201}$  in each case is independently selected from H,  $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl<sub>1</sub> and aryl, -CO  $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl and -CO  $(C_{1.6})$ alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with  $R^{2000}$ ;

R<sup>202</sup> is H or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

 $R^{2000}$  is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, Het,  $-OR^{2001}$ ,  $-SR^{2004}$ ,  $-SOR^{2004}$ ,  $-SO_3R^{2004}$ ; cyano,  $-N(R^{2002})(R^{2001})$ , and  $R^{2003}$ , wherein said aryl and Het are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents selected from  $(C_{1:6})$ alkyl and  $-O-(C_{1:6})$ alkyl;

 $R^{2001}$  in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, -C(O)-  $R^{2003}, \frac{-C(O)O \cdot R^{2003}, -CON(R^{2003})(R^{2004}) \text{ and } R^{2004}}{};$ 

R<sup>2002</sup> is H or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

 $R^{2003}$  is  $(C_{1.8})$ alkyl; and  $(C_{3.7})$ cycloalkyl; or  $(C_{2.7})$ cycloalkyl  $(C_{1.4})$ alkyl , wherein said  $(C_{3.7})$ cycloalkyl and  $(C_{3.7})$ cycloalkyl  $(C_{1.4})$ alkyl are optionally monoridi, or tri-substituted with  $(C_{1.3})$ alkyl; and

R<sup>2004</sup> is H or R<sup>2003</sup>;

$$\begin{split} R^3 & \text{ is } (C_{1:\delta}) \text{alkyl}_+(C_{3:-r}) \text{eyeloalkyl- or } (C_{3:-r}) \text{eyeloalkyl-}_+(C_{1:\delta}) \text{alkyl}_+, \text{ each-optionally} \\ & \text{ substituted with one or more substituents independently-selected from } (C_{1:\delta}) \text{alkyl}_+, \\ & (C_{2:\delta}) \text{alkenyl}_+ \text{ halogen}_+, \text{ eyano}_+ \cdot \mathbf{OR}^{30}_+, -\mathbf{SR}^{30}_+, -\mathbf{C}(=0) \mathbf{OR}^{30}_+, -\mathbf{C}(=0) \mathbf{NH}_{2:\tau} \\ & -\mathbf{C}(=0) \mathbf{NH}(C_{1:\delta}) \text{alkyl}_+, \mathbf{C}(=0) \mathbf{N}((C_{1:\delta}) \text{alkyl}_2, -\mathbf{NH}_{2:\tau} -\mathbf{NH}(C_{1:\delta}) \text{alkyl}_+, \\ \end{aligned}$$

- $N((C_{+6})alkyl)_2$ , aryl, and  $aryl(C_{+6})alkyl$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{30}$  is H,  $(C_{+6})alkyl$ , aryl, or  $aryl(C_{+6})alkyl$ -:
- $\mathbf{R}^{5}$  is selected from  $\mathbf{B}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}$ - $\mathbf{C}(=0)$   $\mathbf{B}$ - $\mathbf{O}$ - $\mathbf{C}(=0)$ -, and  $\mathbf{B}$ - $\mathbf{N}(\mathbf{R}^{51})$ - $\mathbf{C}(=0)$ -;  $\mathbf{B}$ - $\mathbf{N}(\mathbf{R}^{51})$ - $\mathbf{C}(=5)$ -,  $\mathbf{B}$ - $\mathbf{SO}_{2}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$ - $\mathbf{N}(\mathbf{R}^{51})$ - $\mathbf{SO}_{2}$ -; wherein  $\mathbf{B}$  is selected from:
  - (i) (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkył, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkył, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkył, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkył, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkył)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>4</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>4</sub> -C(O)NH<sub>4</sub> -C(O)NH<sub></sub>
  - (ii) (C<sub>1-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, o<del>r</del> (C<sub>2-7</sub>)cycloalkyl (C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl , each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and C(=O)N(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>.
  - (iii) aryl or aryl(C<sub>+6</sub>)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>+6</sub>)alkyl, OH, NH<sub>2</sub>; NH(C<sub>+6</sub>)alkyl, N((C<sub>+6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH<sub>3</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>+6</sub>)alkyl-and C(=O)N((C<sub>+6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
  - (iv) Het or Het (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl , each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, OH, NH<sub>2</sub>; -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>; and C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>; and
  - (v) (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halozens; and wherein
  - $\mathbf{R}^{51}$  is selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

provided that B is not  $(C_{1-10})$  alkyl unsubstituted, when  $R^5$  is B-O-C(=O)-;

- Y is H or (C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl;
- R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are each independently selected from H, (C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3.7</sub>)cycloalkyl,

  (C<sub>3.7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**<sub>e</sub> and aryl-(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl-; wherein said

  (C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3.7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3.7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl-

are optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen,  $(C_{1:6})$ alkyl, hydroxy, cyano,  $O-(C_{1:6})$ alkyl,  $-NH(C_{1:4})$ alkyl,  $-N((C_{1:4})$ alkyl)<sub>2</sub>,  $-COOH_2$ ,  $-COOH_2$ ,  $-COOH_3$ , and  $-COO(C_{1:6})$ alkyl; or

 $R^4$  and  $R^6$  are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three further heteroatoms independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one or more substitutents independently selected from halogen,  $(C_{1:6})$ alkyl, hydroxy, cyano,  $O\text{-}(C_{1:6})$ alkyl, -NH2, -NH(C\_{1:4})alkyl, -N((C\_{1:4})alkyl)2, -CO-NH2, -CO-NH(C\_{1:4})alkyl, -CO-N((C\_{1:4})alkyl)2, -COOH, and -COO(C\_{1:6})alkyl;

with the proviso that when:

R5 is B O C(=O) or B N(R51) C(=O), wherein

- R54 is H: and

 $\textbf{B is selected from } (C_{1\!-\!10}) \\ \textbf{alkyl}, (C_{2\!-\!7}) \\ \textbf{eycloalkyl}, \\ \textbf{and } (C_{2\!-\!7}) \\ \textbf{eycloalkyl}, (C_{4\!-\!4}) \\ \textbf{alkyl}, \\ \textbf{and } (C_{3\!-\!7}) \\ \textbf{eycloalkyl}, \\ \textbf{and } (C_{4\!-\!7}) \\ \textbf{eycloalkyl}, \\ \textbf{$ 

- a) wherein said alkyl, eyeloalkyl, and eyeloalkyl alkyl are optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted with (C+2)alkyl; and
- b) wherein said alkyl, eyeloalkyl, and eyeloalkyl alkyl are optionally monoor disubstituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and  $O(C_{i\rightarrow})$ alkyl; and e) wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono , di- or tri- substituted with
- d) wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4,5,6-or7-membered, one (for the 4,5,6-or7-membered) or two (for the 5,6-or7-membered)
  - -CH<sub>2</sub>-groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by O to provide a heterocycle, such that the O atom is linked to the O C(=O) or
  - -N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O) group via at least two carbon atoms; and

R2-is-O-R20;

halogen; and

then

R20 cannot be

wherein

 $\mathbb{R}^{200a}$  is H, halogen,  $(C_{\downarrow\downarrow})$ alkyl, OH, O  $(C_{\downarrow\downarrow})$ alkyl, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH $(C_{\downarrow\downarrow})$ alkyl or  $-N((C_{\downarrow\downarrow})$ alkyl)<sub>3</sub>:

R<sup>2006</sup>, R<sup>2006</sup> are each independently halogen, cyano, (C<sub>1+</sub>)alkyl, O (C<sub>1+</sub>)alkyl, SO (C<sub>1+</sub>)alkyl, or SO<sub>2</sub> (C<sub>1+</sub>)alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either R<sup>2006</sup> or R<sup>2006</sup> (but not both at the same time) may also be H: or

R<sup>200a</sup> and R<sup>200b</sup> or

R<sup>3000</sup> and R<sup>3000</sup> may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C atoms to which they are linked, a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring wherein one or two CH<sub>2</sub> groups not being directly linked to each other may be replaced each independently by O or NR\* wherein R\* is H or (C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl, and wherein said earbo-or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono-or-disubstituted with (C<sub>1-1</sub>)alkyl; and

 $\mathbb{R}^{2000a}$  is  $\mathbb{R}^{2003}$ ,  $\mathbb{N}(\mathbb{R}^{2002})$ COR $^{2003}$ ,  $\mathbb{N}(\mathbb{R}^{2002})$ COR $^{2003}$ ,  $\mathbb{N}(\mathbb{R}^{2002})$ ( $\mathbb{R}^{2004}$ ), or  $\mathbb{N}(\mathbb{R}^{2002})$ CON( $\mathbb{R}^{2002}$ ) $\mathbb{N}(\mathbb{R}^{2004})$ , wherein

R<sup>2002</sup> is H or methyl;

 $R^{2003}$  is  $(C_{1.8})$ alkyl,  $(C_{3.7})$ eyeloalkyl or  $(C_{3.7})$ eyeloalkyl  $(C_{1.4})$ alkyl are optionally mono , di , or tri-substituted with  $(C_{1.3})$ alkyl; and

R<sup>2004</sup> is H or R<sup>2003</sup>.

wherein Het is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic:

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof

- (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein:
   R<sup>5</sup> is selected from B-C(=O)- B-O-C(=O)-, and B-NH-C(=O)-; wherein B is selected from:
  - (i) (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=0)(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH(2, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)2; -C(=0)NH<sub>2</sub>; -C(=0)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=0)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)3;
  - (ii) (C<sub>3.7</sub>)cycloalkyl, or (C<sub>3.7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1.4</sub>)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with
    one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, halogen,
    -COOH, COO(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, OH, O(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl,
    -N((C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>; -C(=O)NH<sub>3</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>3</sub>;
  - (iii) aryl or aryl(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, OH, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl and C(=O)N((C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
  - (iv) Het or Het (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, OH, NH<sub>23</sub>—NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl,
    -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>23</sub>—C(=O)NH<sub>23</sub>—C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>25</sub>
    provided that B is not (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl unsubstituted, when R<sup>5</sup> is B-O-C(=O)-:

Y is H:

 ${\bf R}^3$  is  $\underline{tert$ -butyl ( ${\bf C}_{1-8}$ )alkyl or ( ${\bf C}_{1-7}$ )cycloalkyl, each of which are optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from ( ${\bf C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  ${\bf OR}^{30}$ , and  ${\bf C}(=0){\bf OR}^{30}$ , wherein  ${\bf R}^{30}$  is H, ( ${\bf C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl, or  ${\bf ary}({\bf C}_{1-6})$ alkyl-;

 $R^2$  is -O-X- $R^{20}$ , wherein X is (C<sub>3</sub>)alkynyl and  $R^{20}$  is (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl; or

 $R^2$  is -O- $R^{20}$  wherein  $R^{20}$  is

wherein

 $R^{200d}$  is  $-OR^{201}$ , wherein  $R^{201}$  is  $(C_{1-6})$ alkyl;

 $\mathbf{R}^{200e}$  is H or -OR<sup>201</sup>, wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{201}$  is (C<sub>1.6</sub>)alkyl; and

R<sup>200</sup>f is (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, halogen, -SR<sup>201</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>201</sup>, or -OR<sup>201</sup>, wherein R<sup>201</sup> is

(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl optionally further substituted with (C<sub>2-7</sub>)cycloalkyl or phenyl;

or  $\mathbb{R}^{20}$  is

wherein

one of A, D, and E represents a S atom and the other two of A, D, and E represent C atoms:

---- represents a single bond between a C atom and an S atom, and represents a single bond or a double bond between two C atoms; provided that each C atom is bonded by one double bond;

 $R^{200g}$  is H or -O  $R^{201}$ , wherein  $R^{201}$  is  $(C_{1-6})$  alkyl or  $(C_{2-6})$  alkenyl; and  $R^{200h}$  is one or two substituents each independently selected from H, cyano,  $(C_{1-6})$  alkyl and  $-SO_{2^{\circ}}(C_{1-6})$  alkyl; wherein each  $R^{200h}$  is bonded to a C atom which would otherwise bear a hydrogen atom;

- R<sup>1</sup> is ethyl or vinyl (C<sub>2.6</sub>)alkenyl or (C<sub>2.6</sub>)alkyl;
- n is 1:
- m is 2; and
- $R^4$  and  $R^6$  are each independently selected from H,  $(C_{1\cdot 6})$  alkyl, -O-( $C_{1\cdot 6})$  alkyl,  $(C_{2\cdot 7}) \text{cycloalkyl}, (C_{2\cdot 7}) \text{cycloalkyl-}(C_{1\cdot 6}) \text{alkyl-}, \text{aryl and aryl-}(C_{1\cdot 6}) \text{alkyl-}; \text{wherein said } (C_{1\cdot 6}) \text{alkyl}, (C_{3\cdot 7}) \text{cycloalkyl-}(C_{1\cdot 6}) \text{alkyl-}, \text{aryl and aryl-}(C_{1\cdot 6}) \text{alkyl-} \text{are optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, } (C_{1\cdot 6}) \text{alkyl}, \text{hydroxy, cyano, } O-(C_{1\cdot 6}) \text{alkyl, -COOH, and -COO(}C_{1\cdot 6}) \text{alkyl; or }$
- ${f R}^4$  and  ${f R}^6$  are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, said heterocycle optionally containing from one to three further heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen,  $(C_{1:6})$ alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O- $(C_{1:6})$ alkyl, -NH $_2$ , -NH $(C_{1:4})$ alkyl, -N( $(C_{1:4})$ alkyl) $_2$ -COOH, and -COO( $C_{1:6}$ )alkyl;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

- 18. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-hepatitis C virally effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.
- (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 18 additionally comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one other antiviral agent.
- (Withdrawn Currently amended) A method of treating or preventing a
  hepatitis C viral infection in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an

anti-hepatitis C virally effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.

#### 21. - 22. (Canceled)

- 23. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting the replication of hepatitis C virus by exposing the virus to a hepatitis C viral NS3 protease inhibiting amount of the compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 24. (Canceled)
- 25. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising a composition effective to treat an HCV infection or to inhibit the NS3 protease of HCV; and packaging material comprising a label which indicates that the composition can be used to treat infection by the hepatitis C virus; wherein the composition comprises a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.
- 26. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 1, comprising:
  - a) reacting a compound of formula (II):

wherein  $\mathbf{R}^4$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^6$  and  $\mathbf{m}$  are defined as in claim 1, with a strong base so as to form the corresponding amide anion and

b) reacting an azalactone of formula (III):

wherein  $\mathbf{R}^1$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^2$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^3$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^5$ ,  $\mathbf{Y}$  and  $\mathbf{n}$  are defined as in claim 1, with the amide anion formed in step a).

# 27. (Original) An azalactone intermediate compound of formula (III):

wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^5$ , Y and n are defined as in claim 1.

# 28. (Canceled)